A BRIEF SURVEY OF THE YEAR 1590

In the beginning of spring, the Queen, lest she should be taken unawares by the Spaniard, made levies of men in England and the south part of Ireland, fortifying Duncannon in the mouth of the river and also Milford Haven in Wales, and for the safeguard of the Navy assigning £8970 yearly She was at great charges in lending money for the Army in Germany , and for the pay of the garrisons in Flushing and Brille she paid every two months 125,000 florins, and to the 3000 horse and foot serving in the Netherlands 260,000 more She was also at great charges against the attempts of the Pope and the Spaniard in Scotland

Nevertheless she repaid beyond expectation the money borrowed not long since of her subjects, so that many wondered whence this money came, seeing she was in no man's debt But the truth was that, being providently frugal, she scarcely spent anything but for the maintenance of her royal honour, the defence of the Kingdom or the relieving of her neighbours, and Burleigh, the Lord Treasurer, looked narrowly into those that had the charge of customs and imports, by whose avarice much was underhand embezzled, and through negligence much not exacted Not long before this the Queen being informed by one Carmarden of the mysteries of her farmers of Customs had caused Sir Thomas Smith, the customer, as he was called, who farmed the Customs for £14,000 a year, to pay from thenceforth .£42,000 and afterwards £50,000

Abroad the Zealanders were reconciled with the Hollanders The ships of the Venetians and Florentines taken by the English were restored and strict proclamation made that no violence should be offered to the Italians, Venetians, French, Danes, Netherlanders or those of the Hanse Towns Yet the Spaniards

were grievously afflicted, many prizes being taken near the Azores, and the castle in the isle of Faiall razed to the ground by the Earl of Cumberland